



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/423,025	10/28/1999	HAROLD L. PETERSON	60843.300101	6247
74029	7590	10/31/2007		
Patent Venture Group 10788 Civic Center Drive, Suite 215 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-3805			EXAMINER OBEID, MAMON A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/31/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/423,025

Applicant(s)

PETERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Mamon Obeid

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08/03/2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 12-15 and 26-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15 and 26-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/03/2007 has been entered.

### ***Status of Claims***

2. This is in reply to the RCE noted above.
3. Claims 12-15 and 26-31 are currently pending and have been examined.

### ***Claim Objections***

4. Claim 26 is objected to because of the following informalities: omit "to" from the phrase "*the to personal computer*".

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:  
  
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 3621

6. Claims 12-15 and 26-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
7. Claims 12, 26 and 29 recites the limitation "*all said keys*". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The Examiner is confused about the number of keys required to unwrap the digital wrapper. There is a possibility that the user can unwrap the digital wrapper using one key ("*receiving at least one key*"), which contradicts with, for example, the limitation ("*unwrapping said digital wrapper protecting said selection using all said keys required for said selection*") of claim 12. For the purpose of examination, the Examiner will interpret the limitation "*all said keys*" as any received key or keys.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3621

9. Claims 12-15 and 26-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Subler et al (US Patent No. 5,646,992) in view of Hurley (US Patent No. 5,984,508).
10. **Examiner's Note:** The Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior art of record within the body of this action for the convenience of the Applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply. Applicant, in preparing the response, should consider fully the entire reference as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.
11. **As per claim 12:** Subler discloses the following limitations:
- *wherein said assets are instances of the digital content and are protected from unauthorized use by a digital wrapper requiring at least one key for unwrapping (see at least column 1, lines 5-6 and 62-63, column 7, lines 10-13, column 9, lines 32-48 and column 16, lines 20-27);*
  - *subsequent to said delivery of said personal computer to said user, displaying on the personal computer information about said inventory (see at least column 3, lines 39-52);*

Art Unit: 3621

- *accepting a selection representing a particular said asset from said user (see at least column 5, lines 5-30);*
- *transmitting money representing payment for said selection and an identifier associated with said selection from the personal computer to a clearing house, via a communications system (see at least column 3, lines 30-31 and column 4, lines 51-64);*
- *receiving at least one key associated with said selection at the personal computer (see at least column 16, lines 20-26); and*
- *unwrapping said digital wrapper protecting said selection using all said keys required for said selection (see at least column 15, lines 49-56).*

Subler does not explicitly disclose an inventory of assets pre-stored in a hard drive, however, Hurley discloses *storing an inventory of assets in a hard drive of a personal computer prior to delivery of said personal computer to a user (see at least column 1, lines 8-27).*

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Subler's teachings to include the step of pre-storing digital content in the computer's hard-drive before its delivered to the user to 1) ensure the compatibility of the digital content with the computer configuration, 2) to restrict the usage of the digital content to only one computer hard drive and 3) to reduce the cost of delivering the digital content to the user by not using a storage media such as CD-ROM's.

**12. As per claim 13:** Subler discloses the following limitations:

- *receiving at the personal computer a first said key from said clearing house (see at least column 10, lines 2-5);*
- *transmitting from the personal computer said first said key to a master server, via said communications system (see at least column 10, lines 5-11, column 15, lines 49-56 and column 18, lines 39-53); and*
- *receiving back at the personal computer a second said key from said master server (see at least column 10, lines 5-11 and column 15, lines 49-56).*

**13. As per claim 14:** Subler discloses *wherein said (b) through said (f) are performed using a graphical user interface that presents said assets metaphorically as merchandise and units of service in aisles of stores (see at least column 1, lines 31-40 and column 3, lines 46-52).*

**14. As per claim 15:** Subler discloses *wherein said graphical user interface further presents said stores metaphorically as a member of the set consisting of villages, town squares, shopping centers, and malls (the graphical user interface displays the hierarchically organized graphical representations of items or groups of items that are available to be ordered, see at least column 1, lines 31-40 and column 3, lines 46-52).*

15. **As per claim 26, 28, 29, 30 and 31:** the claims are rejected over Subler using the same rationale used in rejecting claim 12. Regarding the limitation "a logic in the to personal computer to..." recited in claim 26 and the limitation "executable software..." recited in claim 29 are also disclosed by Subler (see at least column 5, lines 19-30 and column 1, lines 25- 28).

16. **As per claim 27:** this claim is rejected using the same rationale used to reject claim 12.

### ***Response to Arguments***

17. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mamon Obeid whose telephone number is (571) 270-1813. The examiner can normally be reached on 5-4-9.

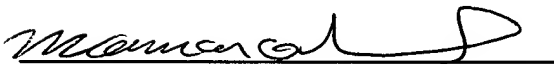
19. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew J. Fischer can be reached on (571) 272-



Art Unit: 3621

6779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

20. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Mamon Obeid

Examiner

Art Unit 3621

Date: October 25, 2007



ANDREW J. FISCHER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600